

WASHINGTON.

Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable.

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1846.

In the remarks which we made a day or two ago upon the tone of the government paper regarding our Foreign Relations, we were careful, as is our wont, to make use of no expression which could be tortured into a personal application. We spoke, indeed, of the necessity of a certain degree of dignity and decorum in the conduct of our foreign relations, and blamed what we considered the levity of the government paper in such matters; affording to our readers, at the same time, the fullest and fairest opportunity of judging between us and the government paper by transferring to our columns the article which was the subject of our remarks.

Possibly, in our judgment of this matter we may have been in the wrong, or, if generally right, we may have erred in some particular. Perhaps, remembering in what temper such questions were wont to be discussed during the administrations of Presidents JEFFERSON, MADISON, MONROE, and ADAMS, by those who were honored by their confidence, we may have expected too much from the change which has been made from "the Globe" to "the Union;" when we looked for a revival, in the new Administration paper, of the habits of those good old times, when, instead of blustering in a tone of peace about a crusade to the halls of Montezuma, or crusades any where, we were content to maintain our own rights by argument as long as peace lasted, and by arms, without vain boasting, when war became inevitable. The organ of the Administration might have answered us, with some plausibility, that the character of our countrymen has undergone a change since those days, and that Mr. MADISON himself, could he be recalled to earth, with his eminent virtues, his moderation in peace, his firmness in war, his self-respect and self-possession under all circumstances, would be out of place at the head of the Government in our present advanced state of civilization. All this the government paper might have shown in justification of its unusual mode of handling questions of such importance and delicacy as those which concern our foreign relations. All this, and more, the government paper might have said, and it would be true, as it has done in admitting into its columns a communicated article, in which we find the following passage:

"The National Intelligencer is not, indeed, so far as known, the organ of the British Government; for such exclusiveness might conflict with its engagements to the Mexicans. It is, however, we believe, well informed as to the views of the British Ministry." &c.

The language of this passage is susceptible of no other construction than as an assertion that the National Intelligencer has "engagements" of some sort "with the Mexicans;" if it be not "the organ of the British Government."

To such an assertion there can be no reply other than that, by whomsoever made, it is detestably false, and without the shadow of foundation; nor less so is the innuendo which accompanies it.

The Editor of the government paper, by whom this charge has been, no doubt, inadvertently admitted into its columns, will of course see to what sheer malignity that paper has been made the pander. We cannot for a moment doubt that he will at once disavow the slander and inflict upon the slanderer the rebuke which he deserves.

THE TWENTY-NINTH CONGRESS.—The election in Virginia brings up the number of members chosen for the next Congress to 163, of whom 58 are Whigs, 99 Locos, and 6 Native Americans. There are 58 more members to be elected, in Maryland, North Carolina, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida, and a vacancy to be filled in each of the States of Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.

We understand that the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company has recently found it necessary to increase the charge for the carriage of Coal from Cumberland to Dam No. 6 on the Canal, from one cent and two-thirds per ton per mile to four cents; and of plaster and other heavy articles from Dam No. 6 to Cumberland, from comparatively low charges to, as we are informed, six cents per ton per mile. This fact would seem to establish conclusively the inability of the Railroad to carry freight at the low rates heretofore spoken of.

THE MISSION TO ENGLAND.—A New York paper having started a rumor that Mr. CALHOUN was to be appointed a special minister to England, the "Union" notices the rumor and says:

"As far as we are advised, we do not believe there is any foundation for this statement. The only fact of any importance, which appears in the whole of its article, is, that the mission to London has been refused by both Messrs. ELMORE and PICKENS."

THE WIDOW OF ALEXANDER HAMILTON.—The Albany correspondent of the New York Evening Gazette gives the following account of a visit of the venerable Mrs. HAMILTON to the New York Legislature on Monday last:

"An event of more than ordinary interest took place in the House to-day. Mr. LEE, of Westchester, announced to the House that a distinguished lady, the widow of an Revolutionary officer and the daughter of another, was now in this city. He moved that a select committee be appointed to wait on the lady and invite her to a seat within the bar of the House. The Speaker designated Mr. LEE and Mr. SWENNEY, of Niagara county, an officer of the war of 1812, to convey the invitation to Mrs. HAMILTON.

"The committee speedily returned, and the House received the venerable lady standing. She was conducted up the middle aisle, when Mr. LEE, stepping a few paces in advance of her, said, 'Mr. Speaker, I present to this House the widow of Gen. Alexander Hamilton, the daughter of Gen. Philip Schuyler.' The lady then took her seat on the right of the Speaker, and, having listened some minutes to the proceedings, rose, bowed to the Speaker, and took her leave, the House honoring her departure by standing until the doors closed upon her retiring form. It was certainly an interesting ceremony, and its recollection will be treasured by all who were present."

ACCIDENT.—The steamboat Huguenot, on her passage to New York on Tuesday morning, when rounding Castle Garden, ran over one of the barges of the Steamer Frigate Urania, proceeding from the shore to the ship. There were about twenty men in the barge, all of whom it is thought, were saved; three were taken out of the wheel-house, and the remainder were picked up by boats from the shore and steamboats.

A SLAVER CAPTURED.

We learn from the Boston Journal that the schooner *Spitfire*, of New Orleans, arrived at that port on Wednesday morning in command of Lieut. WASHINGTON REID, of the U. S. navy, having been captured on the coast of Africa by the U. S. brig *Truxtun*. The particulars of her capture are thus stated by the Journal:

"The *Spitfire*, Peter Flowsy master, was seized in the Rio Pongo, coast of Africa, at the slave factory of Paul Taber, March 26, on suspicion of being engaged in the slave trade, by the boats of the U. S. brig *Truxtun*, in the charge of Lieut. SIMON F. BLUNT, co-operating with the boats of H. B. M. steamer *Arcton*, under the charge of Lieut. JOHNSON. The boats went alongside under English colors, and ordered the schooner to show her colors on the penalty of being seized as a pirate. The American ensign was then hoisted at her gall, and the colors were immediately shifted in the boats and the schooner charged, evidence having been lodged against her as having already made a successful trip from the same place to the island of Cuba, with three hundred and forty slaves, under the command of Captain Gordon, lately in command of the *Manchester*, by Thomas Turner, who served in both vessels as Captain G.'s mate. She was then known by the name of *Cavallero*, and was built in Baltimore, whence she sailed via New York in 1843. She was afterwards sold, and her register returned to Baltimore. Her present crew also testified as to her intention of receiving slaves."

FROM THE NEW YORK COURIER AND ENQUIRER.

The Toronto (Canada) Patriot rebukes very earnestly the warlike tone which has been assumed by many papers both in the United States and in England, and expresses its firm belief that the interests of both countries and of the world demand the continuance of peace. To Canada, it says, a war would be a fearful drawback and stumbling-block in her path to national greatness. Depending, as that Province does, so materially on the regular influx of British capital and population, a war with the United States, says the Patriot, would throw us back a dozen years in progressive civilization. "We know that our neighbors south of the Great Lakes are bold, active, and determined—that no people in the world will fight more pertinaciously in defence of their soil, but we are equally satisfied of their utter inability to maintain either an aggressive war or a protracted war on the ocean with a Power like that of Great Britain." It expresses, thus ardently and forcibly, its preference for the bloodless victories of enterprise and peace:

"Our voice, then, is for the bloodless victories of onward civilization—the unadorned triumphs of peace. There may be hearts burning with the fever of military ambition—eager to measure swords with the Democracy of the Western World: our quiet spirit will look on the glorious day that sees the opening of the Toronto and Lake Huron Railroad as one of more enduring glory than that which witnessed the proudest flutter of the 'meteor flag' over the most tremendous scene of scattered blood and brains—of festering dead and agonized wounded, which has ever been announced in a 'Gazette extraordinary' as a 'glorious victory to the British arms—defeat of the enemy with the loss of 50,000 killed, wounded, and missing!'"

FROM THE BALTIMORE MERCURY.

The Charleston Mercury, speaking of the substitution of the *Union* as the Government organ in place of the *Globe*, indulges in a strain of remark which will present no novel views indeed to the minds of observant men, but which are worth noting as coming from a journal lately in close alliance with the *Globe*, and also as presenting a striking and true picture of things. We quote the Mercury:

"The tendency of the *Globe* has been to make the interests of party usurp the place of its principles, and a very obvious result has been to convert all the offices and expenditures of the Government into a grand party treasury, out of which an army of demagogues is to be fed. Such an army exists on both sides—a vast multitude, who create nearly all the disgraceful turmoil of our elections, and whose sole interest in politics is notoriously the hope of office; who demand proscriptio when they are out, and denounce it when they are in; who scruple not in the face of day to transfer their violence and noise from one party to the other, and, by their shameless pretensions to principle, bring every good cause into contempt, and lead too many to conclude that all party contests are only a disguised struggle between demagogues for the gains of office. Who does not see that this is becoming more and more the case, and that our elections are assuming the character of a strife of mercenaries for pay? We will not stop to argue that the Government of the country is thus corrupted and the public liberty endangered; that is manifest. The offices of the Government will come to be distributed among men who have no faith or honor, whose life is a glaring and shameless life, who have already sold themselves for gain, and to whom the worst peculation would scarcely be lost of character. And in most cases these demagogues are unfit, from ignorance, for the duties of office. The education of a street politician is truly a notable preparation for the business of an accountant. And this incompetency has led and will continue to lead to the multiplication of offices. Thus, because the country is first wrong by putting idle and ignorant men in office, it must be further burdened by an increased expense as a remedy. Thus, to make 'party devices,' the qualification for place is, to ensure that we pay an enormous price for a very bad article."

OREGON.

The distance of Oregon from the United States is not generally known to half the persons who talk of settling beyond the Rocky Mountains. For the information of Mr. Green, we give the following on the authority of the *Chronicle's* late publication:

The journey is generally commenced at Independence, on the Missouri river; thence—

To Laramie Fork, is 750 miles.

To the sources of the Plateau, is 250 miles.

To Fort Hall, is 250 miles.

1250

The travellers go the greater part of the way on foot, through a dreary barren country, crossing mountains that are 10,000 feet high, and destitute of vegetation and water. They are liable to be attacked by Indians, and suffer all kinds of annoyance and privation.

If the President had the power to offer ten thousand acres to every emigrant, we question whether one hundred persons in New York are so courageous and destitute as to accept the proposal.

It is a man with a family of five persons, residing in the State of New York, were disposed to go to Oregon, he could not take his family there for less than \$1,500 by the usual route. The route usually taken from Canada to Oregon by the employees of the Hudson's Bay Company is about three thousand miles, and is traversed on horseback, there being no roads for wagons. What object emigrants can have in going to Oregon is a mystery to those acquainted with the country. The cost of the journey would buy a small farm in the middle counties of the State of New York.—*N. Y. Evening Gazette.*

IOWA AND MISSOURI.—There are new border troubles between Missouri and Iowa. The St. Louis Republican says:

"The Sheriff of one of the counties of Missouri, bordering upon the northern line, when attempting to execute a writ for a breach of the peace, was assailed by a number of persons of dubious county, Iowa. The prisoners, whom the Sheriff had arrested, were rescued, and the Sheriff himself taken into custody, for exercising illegal authority within the Territory. The trial came off last week, before Judge Morgan of the District Court, and resulted in the conviction of the Missouri Sheriff. The punishment is imprisonment in the penitentiary. The Judge sentenced him to ten days' confinement; but before the sentence could be carried into execution, Gov. CAMPBELL pardoned."

THOMAS LLOYD, of Port Tobacco, Charles county, Maryland, has been appointed Keeper of the Light-boat at Upper Cedar Point, Potomac river, vice J. A. Neale, removed. THOMAS SAWYER has been appointed Keeper of the Light-boat at Lower Cedar Point, Potomac river, vice Capt. Smoot, removed.

SEMI-OFFICIAL.—FROM THE UNION.

The President has already declared more than once that he himself will not be a candidate for a second term of office. He has authorized us to declare it again in the prospectus which we have submitted to the nation as the creed of our own faith and the guide of our own course. He goes in for one term only, to serve his country to the best of his ability, and anxious to testify his gratitude to the people who have honored him by their confidence by devoting himself to their service, and not to his own continuance in office. He does not, therefore, design to shape his Administration to assist any aspirant, or to make his appointments to promote his own re-election; but to carry out faithfully the powers which the people have placed in his hands.

The New York Morning News says: "It has been announced that the London creditors of Illinois have loaned \$1,000,000 to the State for the prosecution of the Illinois Canal. When it is remembered that one party to this loan (Mr. Barling) is a member of Sir Robert Peel's Government, the fact of the loan being decided at this juncture is very significant of peaceful intentions."

"POOR, BUT HONEST."—The newspapers, and other equally great authorities, make use of this phrase in biographical notices. "He was born of poor but honest parents." Poor, but honest; that is to infer that the parents ought to have been dishonest because they were poor; but that in the particular case they were honest, spite of their poverty. This common phrase is an insult to the condition of ninety-nine men out of a hundred, and an indignity to human nature. There might be, considering the manner in which many fortunes are acquired, some little shade of meaning in saying of the heir of fortune, "He was born of rich but honest parents;" but the "poor but honest" phrase is atrocious. Let it be reformed altogether.—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

Suppose England and the United States should go to war about the boundary line of Oregon, and after spending millions of money and butchering thousands of human beings, how much nearer would the question be settled than at present? Would it not have to be accomplished by negotiation at last? and why not now?—*Indiana State Journal.*

FLORIDA.

A Whig Convention, assembled at Tallahassee, have nominated Gen. RICHARD K. CALL for Governor, and BENJAMIN A. BUTNAM for Representative in Congress. The proceedings of the Convention were conducted with much harmony, and the nominations unanimously concurred in. Both gentlemen have accepted the nomination. The Pensacola Gazette thinks the selections excellent. It says:

"Gen. CALL is well known to every Floridian as a man of ability, industry, and moral worth. Mr. BUTNAM, who is not so generally acquainted in the west as he is in the middle and east, is a gentleman of talent, energy, and unimpeachable purity of character, and well calculated to sustain the dignity and further the interests of our infant State."

In regard to the canvass, the Gazette remarks:

"The spirit of party, we think, is destined to have full sway in the approaching elections. Both sides seem to approach the contest with equal confidence in the result. What it will be, it is difficult to determine. We are inclined to the opinion that the Whigs will prevail. We trust, however, that our fellow-citizens, Whigs and Democrats, will pass through the excitement of the canvass with moderation and forbearance."

THE OREGON QUESTION.

In the subjoined paragraph the Charleston Mercury takes ground upon this subject:

"The two insuperable obstacles that lie in the way of the plausible assertion of our right to the whole territory between California and the Russian possessions are, the treaty of the joint occupancy and the offer of our Government to accept the line of the forty-ninth degree of latitude as a compromise boundary. Each of these was an undeniable concession to the claims of England had to some extent a just foundation, unless we affirm that each was a cowardly and traitorous abandonment of the rights of our country. And who, more than all others, is responsible for these concessions? Truly, Mr. JOHN Q. ADAMS. We do not blame him for the proffered compromise, for we think it was a very fair division. The claim of the United States extends especially to the southern part of the territory; that of England to the northern part. "The forty-ninth parallel would give us about three-fifths of the whole country—it would secure to us the whole valley of the Columbia river and its two great branches, and would carry through to the Pacific the boundary of our territory this side of the mountains. We have always believed that this boundary could be gained, and that we ought to be satisfied with it. As to the assertion that our right to every foot of land between the Mexican and Russian boundaries is clear, it deserves not the least respect, and comes manifestly either from presumptuous ignorance or reckless demagoguery. We do not believe there is an impartial man in the world, who, on a full hearing of both parties, would adjudge that all the right with us and all the wrong with England. We have already conceded that she has some right, and it would be dishonoring the just pledges of the Government to deny it now."

EXTENSIVE FIRE AT BOSTON.—On Sunday afternoon a fire broke out in Boston, at the foot of South Cedar street, which rapidly spread on both sides of the street, leveling every thing in its way, until about thirty houses were consumed. The sheds of the buildings on Piedmont street, which reared on the South Cedar street houses, took fire and communicated to the buildings on Piedmont street, and all on the east side of this street were consumed.

The whole number of families burnt out is stated to be about eighty, many of whom saved scarcely an article of furniture. The houses were mostly small dwellings, whose occupants, having lost most of their effects, are no doubt the greatest sufferers. The fire was caused by the carelessness of some small boys, who built a fire in the street to roast kites.

FREMONT'S EXPEDITION.—In a recent Western paper it was announced that Capt. FREMONT was in St. Louis, organizing a company of adventurers for the Oregon Territory. The statement went on to say that the expedition would include three years, and added that Capt. Fremont would explore the whole country, "including Upper California and the Russian possessions."

"The Union" of Tuesday quoted this paragraph, and says: "There is a mistake in the first sentence. Capt. Fremont leaves Washington this evening on his way to the Far West. He will probably set out from St. Louis on this third expedition, on a survey of the Rocky Mountains and beyond them, about the first of June."

LOCKJAW.—It appears that a remedy for this horrible disease has at last been discovered. The Journal of Commerce records a cure by the application of electricity. The patient was a young woman, in whom the disease had been brought on by cold and fatigue, and the jaws had been closed five days. The electro-galvanic apparatus was applied to both angles of the jaw, and had not made four revolutions before the complaint was entirely removed.

RELEASE OF DEBTS.—The Providence Gazette announces that Messrs. Bowditch and Heath are again at liberty. They took the oath of allegiance on Saturday night last, and were discharged from custody.

The Grand Jury of Suffolk have indicted the Long Island Road as a nuisance, in consequence of frequent fire which have been kindled in the woods by sparks from the locomotives traversing the road.

Among the great printing establishments of the city of New York is the Methodist Book Establishment. It continually works eight or ten presses propelled by steam, and employs more than one hundred and fifty workmen. Over one hundred thousand dollars worth of books are annually printed. A writer in the Northern Christian Advocate, in speaking of this establishment, remarks: "It has but one pecuniary object, which is to create revenues for those ministers who have sunk down into broken health, under the weight of arduous labors, and to make slight provision for the widows and orphans of those who have nobly fallen with *enim* written on their shield."

MR. CALHOUN ON OREGON.

Had it not been for the conservative course of the Carolina Senators in the last Congress, (says the Savannah Republican), the country would at this moment be involved in a war with England. Two votes would have decided the question in the Senate, and passed the House bill which provided for the immediate occupation of the Oregon territory by our Government. Whatever may be the result of the controversy, it is a matter of congratulation that those gentlemen had the wisdom and the foresight to defer, for a time at least, the necessity of an actual resort to force. It remains to be seen whether the Southern wing of the Democracy will regard their wise counsels, or follow the Globe in its rabid and reckless course.

The speech of Mr. CALHOUN in the Senate, in January, 1843, on the subject of Oregon, lately republished, meriting particular attention in the present state of affairs between England and America, we make several extracts from it.

Mr. CALHOUN said:

"Has the time arrived when it would be wise and prudent for us to attempt to assert and maintain our exclusive right to the territory, against the adverse and conflicting claim of Great Britain? I answer, No, it has not; and that for the decisive reason, because the attempt, if made, must prove unsuccessful against the resistance of Great Britain. We could neither take her hold against her; and that for a reason not less decisive, that she could in a much shorter time, and at far less expense, concentrate a far greater force than we could in the territory."

"We seem to forget, in the discussion of this subject, the great events which have occurred in the eastern portion of Asia during the last year, and which have so greatly extended the power of Great Britain in that quarter of the globe. She has there, in that period, terminated successfully two wars; by one of which she has given increased quiet and stability to her possessions in India, and by the other has firmly planted her power on the eastern coast of China, where she will undoubtedly keep up, at least for a time, a strong military and naval force, for the purpose of intimidation and strengthening her newly acquired possession. The point she occupies there on the western shore of the Pacific, is almost directly opposite to the Oregon territory, at the distance of about five thousand five hundred miles from the mouth of Columbia river, with a tranquil ocean between, which may be passed over in six weeks. In that short time, she might place, at a moderate expense, a strong naval and military force at the mouth of that river, where a formidable body of men, as hardy and energetic as any on this continent, in the service of the Hudson Bay Company, and numerous tribes of Indians under its control, could be prepared to sustain and co-operate with it. Such is the facility with which she could concentrate a force there to maintain her claim to the territory against ours, should they be brought into collision by this bill."

"I now turn to examine our means of concentrating an opposing force by land and water, should it become necessary to maintain our claim. We have no military or naval position in the Pacific ocean. Our fleet would have to sail from our own shores, and would have to cross the line and double Cape Horn, in 56 degrees of south latitude; and, turning north, across the line, and ascend to latitude 46 north, in order to reach the mouth of Columbia river, a distance from New York (over the straightest and shortest line) of more than thirteen thousand miles, and which would require a run of more than eighteen thousand of actual sailing, on the usual route. Instead of six weeks, the voyage would require six months. I speak on the authority of one of the most experienced officers attached to the Navy Department."

"These facts are decisive. We could do nothing by water. As far as the elements are concerned, we could not oppose to her a gun or a soldier in the territory."

"But, as great as the impediments by water, they are, at present, not much less by land. If we assume some central point in the State of Missouri as the place of rendezvous, from which our military force would commence its march for the territory, the distance to the mouth of the Columbia river would be about two thousand miles; of which much more than a thousand miles would be over an unsettled country, consisting of naked plains or mountainous regions, without provisions, except such game as the rifle might supply. On a greater portion of this long march the force would be liable to be attacked and harassed by numerous and warlike tribes of Indians, whose hostilities might be readily turned against us by the British traders. To march such a distance, without opposition, would take upwards of one hundred and twenty days, assuming the march to be at the usual rate for military operations. In the event of the hostilities of Indians, the time would be greatly prolonged."

"I now ask, how could any considerable force sustain itself in so long a march, through a region so destitute of supplies? A small detachment might live on game; but that resource would be altogether inadequate to the support of an army. In sending an army could supply sufficient supplies to sustain itself on its march to the territory, how could it sustain itself in an unsettled territory, too remote to draw supplies from its settlements in its rear, and with the ocean in front closed against it by a hostile fleet? And how could supplies be found to return, if a retreat should become necessary? In whatever way the march is regarded, I have nothing in asserting that such is the difficulty at present on our part of concentrating and maintaining a force in the territory, that a few thousand regulars, advantageously fortified on the Columbia river, with a small naval force to support them, could, in the aid of the employees of the Hudson Bay Company, and the co-operation of the Indians under its influence, bid defiance to any effort we could make to dislodge them. If all other difficulties could be surmounted, that of transporting a sufficient battering train, with all of its appurtenances, to so great a distance, and over so many obstacles, would be insuperable. "Hark now to the position, that the peace bill is a tempt, at present, to assert and maintain our exclusive claim to the territory, against the adverse and conflicting claim of Great Britain, must prove unsuccessful, if she resisted, it now remains to inquire whether she would resist. And here let me say, whatever may be the doubts of others, surely they who have, in this discussion, insisted so strongly on our power, her jealousy, and her determination to hold the territory, cannot doubt that she would resist. If, indeed, provoking language can excite her to resistance, or if half which has been said of her hostile disposition be true, she not only would resist, but would gladly seize so favorable an occasion to do so, while we are comparatively so weak and so long in that quarter. However unfavorable the time might be for us, for her it would be the most propitious."

"Her vast resources and military power in the East are liberated and at her disposal, to be directed to assert and maintain her exclusive claim to the territory against ours, if she should determine to follow our course, in case this bill should pass. Even I, who believe that the present Ministry is disposed to peace, and that Sir Robert Peel has exhibited great wisdom and moderation in the midst of splendid success, and therefore more to be trusted—do not doubt she would resist, if we should adopt this measure. We must not, therefore, as we believe our title to be, that the right to the territory is in dispute between the two countries; and that, as certain as we regard our right to be, she regards hers as not less so. It is a case of adverse conflicting claims; and we may be assured, if we undertake to assert our exclusive right, she will oppose us by asserting hers; and if the appeal should be made to decide between us as at present, the result would be inevitable—the territory would be lost to us. Indeed, this is so incontrovertible, that no one has ventured to deny it; and there is no hazard in asserting that no one will who understands the subject, and does not choose to have the soundness of his judgment questioned."

SUICIDE OF A MURDERESS.—On Tuesday a woman named Penmore was committed to prison in New York on the charge of having murdered her brother, A. M. Scudder, at Hoboken, by administering arsenic. The circumstances which were developed subsequent to his death, and the conduct of the wretched woman, when charged with the robbery of deceased's property, left little doubt that, incited by the demon of cupidity, she had brutally murdered him. Since her commitment, however, she had refused to answer any questions, and last night she was locked up in her cell in the county jail at the usual hour; but, upon opening the door this morning, she was discovered suspended over a stove pipe, quite dead. The deed was accomplished with her shawl, and the work of strangulation must have been painful in the extreme, and proved the determination of the wretched woman. She was a widow, exceedingly good looking, and not over thirty years of age, it is said. Scudder had left a son about sixteen years old. The utmost excitement prevails in the neighborhood. The coroner held an inquest on the body.—*Evening Mirror.*

CONFLICT WITH A WHALE.—Mr. STEPHEN S. SNOW was killed instantly by a whale, off Race Point, Provincetown, last Tuesday, in the following manner: As soon as the whale was discovered, two boats, one containing five and the other four persons, made in pursuit, and each boat succeeded in fastening their irons, when the whale turned upon them, and coming upon one boat head foremost, utterly demolished it, killing instantly Mr. Snow, leaving the others afloat in the water. The other boat severed their line, and succeeded in escaping the drowning monster, who made for the shore, and, but by hard pulling they reached the shore in safety, the whale following close in their wake, as far as the depth of water would permit. This is said to be the first instance in which a whale has attacked a boat in this manner upon our shores.—*Boston Courier.*

ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATION.

We have been favored by Professor LOOMIS with the following full and admirable account of the rare and very interesting phenomenon of the 8th instant.

[N. Y. Courier & Enquirer.]

FOR THE COURIER AND ENQUIRER.

A transit of the planet Mercury over the sun's disc took place yesterday, May 8th, under circumstances peculiarly favorable for observation. The weather was glorious—all that an astronomer could desire. The times of beginning and end, as observed at the university, were as follows:

	Mean time at the University.
Planet first seen.....	11h. 26m. 20.3s.
First internal contact.....	11h. 27m. 38.3s.
Second internal contact.....	5h. 50m. 55.7s.
Second external contact.....	5h. 54m. 29.0s.

These observations were the best I could make under the circumstances, but do not lay claim to the highest precision. The relative motion of the planet is so slow that it is impossible to observe the contacts with any thing like the accuracy which may be attained in an occultation of a star by the moon. The apparent diameter of Mercury was 11.6, being near its greatest possible value, yet it was three and a half minutes in describing this arc; that is, in twenty seconds of time, its motion was only one second of arc; so that, with an ordinary telescope, the time of an internal contact could not be estimated within several seconds; and the disc of the planet could not possibly be seen until more than twenty seconds after the first external contact, even if the eye were intently fixed upon the precise point of indentation. When the planet was first distinctly perceived it had already advanced, perhaps one-third of its diameter, upon the sun's disc. At the time above given for the first internal contact a faint line of light began to show itself between the limbs of the planet and the sun. The time given for the second internal contact is the mean of three observations—first, when a thin ring of light was seen between the limbs of the planet and sun; second, when this ring was reduced to a bare line of light; and, third, when there was a decided rupture of the ring. The time of second external contact was the instant when the planet ceased to make a sensible impression upon the sun's disc. Throughout the entire duration of the transit the disc of the planet appeared of an inky blackness and perfectly circular. It might possibly have been seen by good eyes without the aid of a telescope.

According to the preceding observations the transit occurred between one and two minutes later than the time predicted by astronomers. This may be thought a great discrepancy; yet it indicates an error in the tabular place of Mercury of less than half its diameter. When it is considered that one hundred and forty-four circles like Mercury, arranged upon a straight line in contact with each other, would have just extended across the centre of the sun's disc, it will appear that the planet has not wandered far from the path which astronomers have prescribed for it. The tables of Mercury have been greatly improved in recent times. In 1661, when there occurred a transit of mercury over the sun's disc, astronomers watched at their telescopes *four entire days*, because there was this discrepancy in the tables of that time. A transit of Mercury was to occur the 3d of May, 1786. As usual, La Lande announced it the day before in the journals of Paris, giving the hour, minute, and second when Mercury would leave the sun's disc; for the beginning of the transit would be in the night. Unfortunately, the sky was cloudy. The astronomers of Paris watched at their telescopes until the instant predicted for the egress, and even a half hour later; but the sun was still hid by clouds, and they gave up the observation in despair. Messier and Delambre alone persevered in their watch. All of a sudden the sun appeared, and they saw Mercury about leaving the sun's disc. La Lande's prediction was more than *forty minutes* in error.

Few persons now living have ever seen a transit of Mercury before the present one. The only transits which have occurred during this century were—1802, November 8; 1815, November 11; 1822, November 4; 1829, May 5; 1835, November 11.

The first three of these occurred in the night, and the two last were rendered invisible by clouds. The next transit of Mercury will occur November 9, 1848, and will be visible in this country. The last transit of Venus took place June 3, 1769; the next will occur December 8, 1874. The eclipse of the Sun, Tuesday morning, the 6th ultimo, was also observed at this place, but the circumstances were very unfavorable. The sun rose behind thin clouds; its limb was quite undulating, jagged, and ill-defined. The eclipse was perfectly palpable until near the close, when it became difficult to distinguish the indistinctness caused by the moon from the other mentioned inequalities of figure; so that the time of ending was uncertain to at least five seconds. My estimate was 5h. 4m. 48.2s. mean time at the University, being—minutes after sunrise.

The preceding observations were all made with the little telescope of the University, and an excellent chronometer by Denz, kindly furnished by the Messrs. Blunt; and its error was determined by observations at their observatory in Brooklyn.

New York University, May 9, 1845.

ONE DAY LATER FROM MEXICO.

The schooner Creole, arrived at New Orleans, brings accounts from Vera Cruz to the 22d ultimo, and from the city of Mexico to the 17th. We make the subjoined extracts from the *Picayune*:

We have again to say that Mexico has not yet declared war against the United States, although rumors were in town yesterday that she had done so. Verbal communications from some of the passengers by the Creole represent that the general feeling at Vera Cruz is in favor of a war, and that the prevailing impression there is that the Government will declare it so soon as it finds itself in a situation to do so with effect.

Nous verrons.

The four American vessels of war were still lying at San Cristobal.

By this arrival we hear not a word more of Mr. SHANNON, the American Minister.

The most interesting intelligence which we find relates to the fate of SANTA ANNA and those involved in his overthrow. A proposition has been introduced in the Chamber of Deputies that Santa Anna, Canales, and the four ex-Ministers who took part in issuing the decree of the 29th of November, closing the sessions of Congress, may avoid a trial upon the condition of expropriating themselves for the term of ten years. At the same time another proposition was submitted, to the effect that an absolute amnesty should be granted to all those generals and other officers comprehended in the circular of the 6th of January, depriving them of their commands, &c., even though they had been already sentenced.

We do not find that the Chambers have acted upon these propositions, but that they are very likely to receive their approbation we entertain no doubt. The revolution having been so perfectly consummated throughout the entire country, and the present Administration being so secure in their places, it would be an act of dignity as well as clemency to extend a pardon to those who adhered to the last to the fortunes of Santa Anna. The services of a large number of good officers will thus be regained to the Republic. And further to tranquillize the public mind—neither outraging the feelings of the yet numerous friends and partisans of Santa Anna, and at the same time appeasing the demands for justice against him—it would appear to be a highly politic course to allow him to leave the country with those most intimately associated with his tyrannical acts. It is a significant fact that the liberal press, which has been hitherto clamorous for vengeance, indulge in no comments upon the introduction of the above propositions. Had they been offered before the news of the success of the annexation of Texas, there would have been a loud and general outcry. It cannot be doubted that it is the policy of the United States to have the subject of her interior administration settled, and that internal wounds, and concentrate the feelings of all classes and parties upon resistance to annexation.

Congress is diligently occupied, through its committees, with the reform of the Organic Bases. On the 16th ultimo, the committee charged with the subject of the interior administration of the departments made their report. Not a word is reported of the discussions upon the relations between this country and Mexico. These are carried on in secret session.

The nature of the despatches last carried by the *Eurydice* from Galveston to Vera Cruz, Mr. BAYARD had not yet received. Nevertheless, it was generally rumored and believed in Mexico that they contained an offer from the Government of Texas to reject annexation, if Mexico would consent to acknowledge the independence of Texas.

On the 15th instant, Senor BOWEN, in the Chamber of Deputies, made a protest against the non-receipt of report of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. He attacked it in every shape, and accompanied his protest with a violent speech, abusive not only of Senor Cuevas, but of the whole Cabinet. When the motion founded upon the protest was put to vote, Senor BOWEN found himself entirely alone, every other member voting against him. This shows that the Administration has the most perfect confidence of the House.

We find in our papers a letter dated in Paris, addressed to the Mexican Congress, from ex-President Bustamante, congratulating them upon the overthrow of Santa Anna and the re-establishment of a Government of laws. He expresses regret that he could not have shared in the glory of achieving the triumph.

NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

NEW YORK, MAY 10, 1845.

There has been a slight improvement in prices at the stock market since the arrival of the last steamer from England; the rate of money is somewhat lower. The operations are mostly in fancy and railroad stocks.

The punishment of death was